

The Pine Warbler



May 2013

Vol. 33, No. 4

Program Notes:

Jean Drummond and her April Program

Jean painted a grand picture of her trip to Costa Rica with friends and photographers. She also added a lot of good humor describing the condition of roads and accommodations. A large crowd enjoyed her photographs of the colorful birds of the country.

Coming Next Fall!

May is the last month of PWWS meetings before the summer break. The next event will be the August potluck dinner. Details will be made available on the Piney Woods website. We're already looking forward to another program by Paul Gregg and also a program by Claire Moore. If you would like to present a program or know of someone we need to invite, just contact Carlos Hernandez.

Heart Happenings

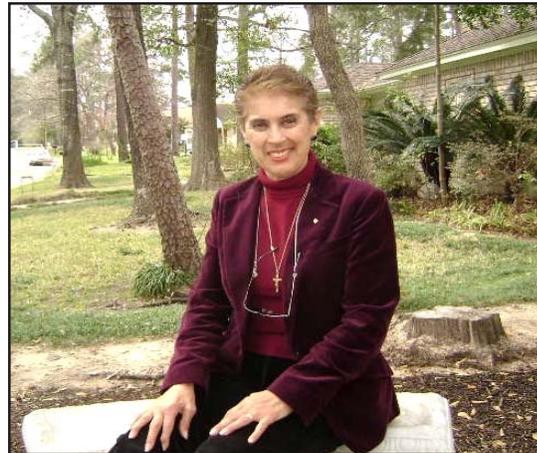


On April 18, the first Texas nests of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles were found on South Padre Island beaches. One of those nests was located at Boca Chica Beach, the proposed site of rocket launches by the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation or SpaceX. It is important that SpaceX pledge that it will avoid
cont. on page 2

PWWS May Program

May 21

An Evening of East Texas Nature Presented by Diane Cabiness

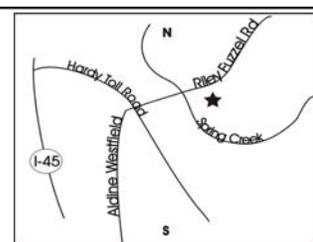


Diane has been writing wonderful columns for the Pine Warbler for years and has taught us so much about plants and the birds and butterflies that visit our yards. In describing her interest in plants, Diane said that she started as a bird watcher and then became aware of the trees, shrubs and perennials they visit. "Then, it morphed into wanting to do the right thing for the environment." Now she helps people install bird and butterfly gardens and is called for consultation on many projects. "I recommend using native plants whenever possible," she said.

Active members of the Big Brother Big Sister organization, Diane and her husband, Bob, mentor a lucky young man named Joaquin who probably knows more about caterpillars, baby birds and plants than many adults. Diane will be bringing plant samples and helping us all with our plant problems. You might even want to bring something in to show her or to get identification. The May program will be a wonderful way to launch us all into the summer growing season!

Date: May 21
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Spring Creek Greenway
Nature Center**
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road



Directions to the Nature Center: Aldine-Westfield turns into Riley Fuzzel Road just northeast of Spring so there are several ways to get there. 1. Take the Rayford/Sawdust exit and go East (right) on Rayford Rd. It dead ends at Riley Fuzzel, then turn South (right) and drive to the Center. or, 2. take Spring-Cypress east to Aldine Westfield through Olde Town Spring, turn left and then on to Riley Fuzzel for a short distance and turn right; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right, go under the freeway and over the bridge. Watch for a sign on the right (lighted at night) and a concrete driveway. The building is not visible from the road but club members can count on security as the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department is also housed there.



the South Texas beaches for several months each year when sea turtles are migrating to the nesting beaches to lay eggs and then until it is certain that hatchlings from undiscovered nests have emerged. Local businessmen as well as state officials are excited by the possibility of SpaceX helping the economy and bringing tourists to South Texas. There is also concern for other endangered species including the piping plover, northern aplomado falcon, jaguarundi and ocelot. A project leader for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who oversees the area describes it as a "narrow string of more than 100 separate tracks with 5700 refuge acres within three miles of the proposed launch site."

The FAA has released a draft environmental impact statement and everyone concerned with endangered species needs to speak up and comments should be made by June 3.

The draft may be read at:

<http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/nepa_docs/review/documents_progress/spacex_texas_launch_site_environmental_impact_statement/> . Comments or questions regarding the Draft EIS can be submitted to Ms. Stacey M. Zee, FAA Environmental Specialist, SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc., 275 West Street, Suite 110, Annapolis, MD 21401. Comments may also be submitted via email to faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com <<http://www.seaturtles.org/faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com>> or by fax to (410) 990-0455.

DON'T FORGET to contact your state senator (Probably Dan Patrick for many of us) to ask him to support HCR 31, the resolution written by the Green Team of Oppe Elementary at Galveston, to make the Kemp's ridley sea turtle the official sea turtle of the state of Texas! The resolution passed the House of Representatives successfully and we hope for good news when it gets to the Senate!

THE BOTTLE BILL is another great bill that will clean up the roads and beaches of Texas and reward people for not littering with bottles and cans. Read about it and take action at www.TexasBottleBill. Texas recycles only 24% of containers sold, the balance are in landfills, on our roads and in our waterways.

PWWS was well represented at Lone Star College's Earth Alliance Day on April 18. Margarita Padilla Beathard was there with the Jesse Jones display and Farrar Stockton talked about sea turtles as he has for six years at this event!

Summer Activities at the Nature Center

Plan to visit the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center this summer as there will lots to do. Many different citizen science projects are held at the Nature Center. Agencies and organizations are interested in finding out about migratory species or indicator species, and this is the place to learn how you can participate! Our newest activity involves locating ground-nesting wasps and watching for the beetles they capture to feed their larvae. It looks like a great excuse to get outdoors and

help the Forest Service find out what beetles may be attacking our trees. If you would like to know more about this project or any of our other monitoring programs, call the Nature Center and ask for Teri MacArthur, manager, at 281.364.4225. Or you can send an email to inquire about workshops and programs to nature.center@mctx.org

Second Saturdays at the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center

Visit the Nature Center on the Second Saturday of each month to learn more about our local environment! From now through September, you can enjoy these topics:

May – Dragonfly and Butterfly Monitoring programs

June – Taking care of our Pollinators

July – SSSSnakes!

August – Monitoring and Removing Invasive Species

If you come early (7:30am) you can go birding with Al Barr, and the presentations and workshops begin at 10am and run until about noon. The public is invited so bring a friend!

East Texas Nature The Beauty of Dogwoods By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist



"Every day is Earth Day"—Author unknown

Today we can hardly go to a store, a gas station or even driving on the roads without being bombarded by a variety of thumping, agitating and jarring music blasting from speakers. I do appreciate a variety of music. I like to listen to Easy Listening Pop, Chant and Inspirational music. Music that stands the test of time gets my vote.

For me it is also the way I feel about flowers. Give me Wildflowers, Native Plants and old fashion Perennials and you are talking my language. I feel quite alive when surrounded by our beloved native plants. I have little interest in those double petaled hybrids that are mass produced and marketed as the Plant Most Wanted when many do not have any nectar or fragrance to invite Pollinators.

A sign in East Texas that Spring has arrived is when the Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida* is in flower whether it be peeking out from the woods or planted in yards. This year I again was rewarded with the sight of our specimen dogwood in full bloom outside our fence line.

Soon after my husband and I had to make an emergency run to Vicksburg, Mississippi where we enjoyed the sight of many



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Numbers of Interest

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The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc. and Copperhead Publishing.

For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues: \$15.00 per household.

Publisher: Copperhead Publishing
Publish1@copperheadfarms.net or
jdfagm@swbell.net
 P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the previous month, earlier if possible. Always add “PWWS” in the subject line. All emails will be responded to within 3 days. If you do not receive a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to cdmoore3@gmail.com (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>